

Ezra 2:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two.

Analysis

The children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two—The name Immer (אִמֶּר) means 'lamb' or 'he has said/promised,' evoking both sacrificial ministry and God's covenant faithfulness. This priestly family produced 1,052 returnees, the second-largest priestly contingent. Ironically, Pashhur son of Immer was the priest who imprisoned Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:1-2), yet God's covenant faithfulness preserved this line despite ancestral opposition to His prophet.

Immer's descendants illustrate God's grace in restoration—even families that produced enemies of the prophets received inclusion in the return. This demonstrates the principle Paul would later articulate: 'the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable' (Romans 11:29). The priestly calling transcended individual failure. Their later role in pure genealogical verification (Ezra 2:59-63) gained added significance given their own checkered history.

Historical Context

Immer headed the 16th priestly division in David's organization (1 Chronicles 24:14). During the monarchy, this family held positions of significant authority, including oversight of temple gates and treasuries. Their large representation (1,052) in the return suggests the family maintained cohesion and commitment despite some members' previous opposition to prophetic ministry.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's preservation of Immer's line despite Pashhur's persecution of Jeremiah demonstrate the irrevocable nature of God's calling?
2. What does the inclusion of families with problematic histories teach about grace in leadership selection and restoration?
3. In what ways does your own checkered spiritual history potentially deepen rather than disqualify your ministry effectiveness?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| בְּנֵי י | אִמֶּר | אֶלְפֵי | חֲמִשָּׁים | וּשְׁנָיִם: |
| The children | of Immer | a thousand | fifty | and two |
| H1121 | H564 | H505 | H2572 | H8147 |

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 24:14 (Parallel theme): The fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer,